

Message Text

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR SADAT ON RABIN'S VISIT

REF STATE 23435

SUMMARY. YOUR MESSAGE TO SADAT DELIVERED TO FAHMY TODAY. AFTER ARRANGING TO SEND IT TO THE PRESIDENT, FAHMY DISMISSED IT AS QUOTE COMPOSITION UNQUOTE. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN WE SEEM AGAIN TO BE CAUGHT UP WITH CATCHWORDS, SUCH AS NOT TOLERATING QUOTE STAGNATION AND STALEMATE UNQUOTE, BUT WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING ABOUT SITUATION. OMISSION OF ANY REFERENCE TO PALESTINIANS ALSO TROUBLESOME. GOE IS RECEIVING MESSAGES FROM ALL OVER ARAB WORLD DEMANDING IT COMDEMN USG VETO, HENCE HIS PERTINENT STATEMENT TO PEOPLES ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE TO BE TOUGH. I DENIED USG CAUGHT UP IN CATCH-WORDS AND STRESSED OUR DETERMINATION TO DO EVERY-THING POSSIBLE TO MOVE PEACE PROCESS ALONG IN 1976. I URGED HE USE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY STATEMENT TO PORTRAY VETO IN TIS PROPER PERSPECTIVE BY EMPHASIZING CONSTANCE OF USG DESIRE MOVE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD IN GENEVA FRAMEWORK. THIS IS UNCHANGED. DEPT'S JAN 26 STATEMENT SHOULD BE HELPFUL AND ALSO CONTAINS IMPORTANT PARA RE PALESTINIANS. FAHMY

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REMAINED SKEPTICAL, BUT ADDED MOST IMPORTANT THING

USG CAN DO TO HELP SADAT NOW IS TO BEGIN
DIALOGUE WITH PLO. END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH IT IS FRIDAY, I WAS ABLE TO MEET WITH
FAHMY THIS MORNING TO GIVE HIM YOUR MESSAGE TO
PRESIDENT SADAT. AFTER READING IT, FAHMY INSTRUCTED
AN AIDE TO TRANSLATE IT INTO ARABIC AND SEND IT TO THE
PRESIDENT.

2. WHILE CORDIAL, FAHMY WAS IN ONE OF HIS DARK
MOODS. HE CALLED THE MESSAGE "COMPOSITION." WE
WERE NOW EMPHASIZING RABIN'S DIFFICULTIES. RECALLING
OUR QUOTE ME POLICY REEVALUATION UNQUOTE OF LAST
YEAR, HE CONTENTED CYNICALLY THAT WE WILL NOW WAVE
THE BANNER OF NOT TOLERATING QUOTE STAGNATION AND
STALEMATE UNQUOTE FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS WITHOUT
DOING ANYTHING. USG TALKS ABOUT THE PEACE PROCESS,
BUT DOES NOTHING ABOUT IT. ALSO THE MESSAGE SAYS
NOTHING ABOUT THE PALESTINIANS. WHEN WILL USG
RECOGNIZE THAT THE ACCEPTANCE OF PALESTINIANS POLITICAL
RIGHTS IS THE KEY TO A JUST AND DURABLE MIDDLE
EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT? OUR POLICY, SO FAR AS HE
COULD SEE, WAS STILL THE SAME OLD QUOTE PRO-ISRAELI
POLICY UNQUOTE.

3. WHAT, FAHMY CONTINUED, WILL HE BE ABLE TO SAY
TO THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY? IT WILL HAVE TO BE A
STATEMENT CRITICAL OF USG VETO. GOE IS RECEIVING
CABLES FROM ALL OVER THE ARAB WORLD DEMANDING THAT
IT CONDEMN USG VETO AND PROTRAYING VETO AS EVIDENCE
EGYPT HAS NO REASON TO TRUST USG INTENTIONS. HE NOW
SAW NO WAY IN WHICH HE COULD AVOID MAKING A STRONG
STATEMENT, IF ONLY TO DEFEND SADAT AND HIMSELF FROM
CHARGES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DECEIVED BY AMERICANS.

4. I TOLD FAHMY THAT HE KNEW THE SITUATION AS WELL
AS WE DO. YOUR MESSAGE SHOULD BE READ FOR WHAT IT IS
-A PRELIMINARY REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO HIM
ON THE RECENT TALKS WITH RABIN. HE AHD ONLY TO
READ THE PRESS IF HE WANTED CONFIRMATION OF STRAINS
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IN OUR RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. AS WE HAD REPEATEDLY
SAID TO OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS, WE WANT THE PEACE PROCESS
TO PROCEED. OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO TOLERATE QUOTE
STANATION AND STALEMATE UNQUOTE IS NOT SIMPLY A
CATCHWORD, AS HE SEEMED TO BELIEVE, BUT A STATEMENT OF
OUR DETERMINATION TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MOVE IT
ALONG IN 1976.

5. AS FAR AS HIS STATEMENT TO THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY IS CONCERNED, IF ONE HAS TO BE MADE, I URGED THAT HE PORTARY THE VETO IN TIS PROPER PERSPECTIVE. AS HE KNEW, IT IN NO WAY SIGNED LACK OF USG APPRECIATION FOR THE NEED OF A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT. IT SIMPLY REFLECTED OUR STRONG VIEW, WHICH WE KNOW GOE SHARES, THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS NOT A PEACE FORUM AND THAT STERILE RESOLUTIONS SOLELY DESIGNED TO SCORE POINTS DO NOT FURTHER WHAT WE ALL RECOGNIZE IS A DIFFICULT PROCESS. I SUGGESTED THE DEPARTMENT'S JANUARY 26 STATEMENT HAS SUFFICIENT MEAT AS TO THE RATIONALE OF OUR POLICY AND VETO AND OUR DETERMINATION TO MOVE AHEAD IF THE PARTIES DESIRE TO ENABLE HIM TO PRESENT USG POLICY IN ITS PROPER LIGHT.

6. SO FAR AS PALESTINIANS ARE CONCERNED, I NOTED YOUR MESSAGE WAS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE IDEAS WHICH WE ARE DEVELOPING. IF HE NEEDED MATERIAL ON OUR POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE PALESTINIANS, THE APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPH IN THE JANUARY 26 STATEMENT SHOULD BE HELPFUL. THAT PARAGRAPH DESERVED CAREFUL READING AS A COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT. FAHMY INTERJECTED THAT, AS HE HAD TOLD ME YESTERDAY, THE OTHERWISE POSITIVE EFFECT OF THAT PARAGRAPH WAS VITIATED BY THE LAST SENTENCE. I EMPHASIZED IT IS THE TOTALITY OF THE PARAGRAPH THAT IS IMPORTANT AND THAT IT SHOULD GIVE HIM THE AMMUNITION HE NEEDS TO SHOW USG POLICY AND PURPOSES IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

7. FAHMY, I FEAR, REMAINED UNCONVINCED. HE SIMPLY SAID, QUOTE WE SHALL SEE, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN. WE WILL HEAR MORE EXCUSES WHY ISRAELIS CANNOT FOR DOMESTIC SECRET

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REASONS MOVE. UNQUOTE. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING USG CAN DO TO HELP SADAT NOW, FAHMY ASSERTED, IS TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO WITHOUT DELAY. EILTS

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